GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3909
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
DISCREPANCIES IN EUROCOPTER DEAL
Deora Shri Milind Murli;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and number of discrepancies found in the selection process of the Eurocopter deal and its short and long term consequences;

(b) the person/agency identified as a go-between for Eurocopter and the details of technical discrepancies found in the selection process causing delay in procurement of suitable helicopters for the army;

(c) whether the Government proposes to cancel the deal and start afresh the procurement of suitable machine for the Army Aviation Corps at the earliest and also further strengthen the mechanism to eliminate the existence of middlemen in defence deals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): The helicopter offered by M/s. Eurocopter for field trials was a civilian version whereas helicopter offered in their bid was the military version. Further, the engine fitted on the helicopter during trial was different from the one offered along with the military version of helicopter in the bid of M/s. Eurocopter. This Ministry is not aware of any person or agency as a go-between for Eurocopter in this acquisition process.

(c) & (d): This case has been foreclosed and the process as per the extant Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), has been initiated afresh. Requisite provisions to eliminate middlemen in defence deals already exist in the extant DPP.